

this point is to decide that we have to meet a midnight hour and ignore the basics of what ought to be done—regulate hedge funds, regulate derivative trading, and reinstate some basic modicum of protection that existed from Franklin Delano Roosevelt forward dealing with Glass-Steagall and protecting our banking institutions from the riskier enterprises. If we don't do those things, we will be back again because we will not have solved the problems that caused this crisis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. First, before my friend from North Dakota leaves the floor, let me say there is a big problem out there, and I agree with a lot of the things he has said. I took a position. I waited 4 days to take a position against the particular approach that the Secretary of the Treasury is recommending, and I did so because I wanted to wait until I understood as much of it as I could.

One of the biggest problems I saw is that, first, the magnitude of \$700 billion is awfully hard to get your arms around; secondly, who would make the determination as to which institutions we would be approaching, and within those institutions which assets, and how do you qualify those assets. Then I found out it would be asset managers. Now, would that be 500 asset managers, 5,000? Maybe it will be some of these same people who created the problem in the first place.

These are questions that I know people who have their hearts in the right place are trying to address. And I agree there is a problem looming out there and we need to correct it, but I am not in any hurry to correct it by doing the wrong thing. It is too big a problem.

Mr. DORGAN. If the Senator from Oklahoma will yield for a question.

Mr. INHOFE. Certainly.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank him for his courtesy in yielding.

I want to say one additional thing which I forgot to say, and ask a question while I do that.

No. 1, it may be that the cure that is being proposed is much worse than the potential that exists without it. Let me tell you what I mean by that.

On Monday of this week, we had the largest 1-day drop in the value of the U.S. dollar in history. We had the largest 1-day increase in the price of oil in history, accompanied by a 350-point drop in the stock market. The analysts say it was because they thought people were worried about the unbelievable amount of debt, our fiscal policy, our trade policy, and now the proposed bailout debt, but the unbelievable amount of debt that would erode the value of the U.S. currency.

If the electronic herd of currency traders goes after our dollar and collapses our dollar, the consequences for this economy can be far worse than that which is described by the Treasury Secretary and the Fed Chairman.

And I am saying it occurs to me that if \$700 billion plus tips the balance in terms of currency traders evaluating whether they want to come after the dollar, we face a greater peril than that which they suggest if we do nothing.

I appreciate the Senator for yielding, because I wanted to make the point about indebtedness. The Government is deep in debt, and we have to somehow put it back on track. This issue that is being proposed, as you know, increases to \$11.3 trillion our indebtedness.

I appreciate the Senator's yielding.

Mr. INHOFE. That is true, and I think anytime you increase that debt, you are going to be selling to large purchasers somewhere, and those could be foreign countries and others.

Another thing I would observe is that things don't happen in a vacuum. The Senator from North Dakota mentioned it could result in a devaluation of the dollar. If that happens, one of the major reasons we have high gas prices at the pumps—the major reason is supply and demand, but the other reason is the devaluation of the dollar. So that would be affected also.

We need to consider all these things and we need to be deliberate. I know a lot of smart people are in rooms now trying to figure out some solutions, and I hope they come up with a good one and something I can support.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT BRANDON FARLEY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the reason I came here today was to recognize and pay tribute to SSG Brandon Farley. He is from Haworth, in southeastern Oklahoma. Since April of 2007, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and 1st Infantry Division at Fort Hood.

Brandon died Thursday, September 18, of wounds sustained a day earlier when his patrol was attacked by enemy forces in Able Monti, Afghanistan. This was his third deployment, serving in Operation Enduring Freedom at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

Brandon was born in Sulphur Springs, TX, and spent his teenage years in Haworth, OK, where he graduated from high school. Soon after graduating from high school, he joined the Marines and served 4 years. It was during those first 4 years in the military that he served his first tour in Iraq. So he was there first as a marine. Later, he was honorably discharged, went into the National Guard, and then he missed the regular services so he joined the Army. So he was stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan both as a marine and as an Army soldier, a truly outstanding young man.

His uncle William Gilpin is quoted as saying:

It was his intention to retire from the army. He had a commitment to his country.

So he was going to stay there for a career; the kind of people we look for all the time.

Corey, Brandon's brother, also spoke about his brother's commitment and service to the military and our Nation. He said:

He loved serving his country. He was a go-getter who had talked about joining the military ever since he was 16.

As Corey talked to him about his deployments, Brandon told him that although there were good and bad times, he reenlisted because he "loved what he was doing."

As the oldest of four, Brandon was committed to his family and enjoyed spending lots of time with them and his many friends. He leaves behind his father Wade and mother Sherry, and many others. He is also survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Corey and Brandy, sisters Ashlyn and Lauren, and two nephews.

Brandon loved being outdoors, four wheeling, and riding his motorcycles around. Brandon's brother Corey said:

I can remember fishing down at the creek and being outside when we were like 10 or 12 years old. Usually it had something to do with a slingshot or a BB gun.

Brandon's sister Lauren left this heartfelt message to her beloved brother on his on-line guest book:

Brandon, you are my brave big brother. I miss you so much—words cannot describe. I sit here thinking of you day and night. All the memories we had and all the memories that were cut short. I am so proud of you. You will always be my big brother. Thank you for all you have done for us. All my love, your little sis Lauren.

Lauren's expression of Brandon's bravery is clearly true. With bravery and courage he faced war and fought for our freedom. He willingly went into battle not only one time but three times. Brandon was a true patriot who gave the ultimate sacrifice—his life—for his country.

A friend wrote in his journal—and I will end with this particularly touching and revealing sentiment:

You were truly amazing. A dear friend, a top-notch soldier, and a super human being. This is a great loss and it will be grieved greatly. I am so proud of you and bragged about your service all the time. I shed tears for you a little bit but I smile knowing that you believe in God and accepted Christ as your savior and that I will be reunited with you one day. Thank you Brandon.

It is kind of coincidental. We had three other Oklahomans who died in a helicopter crash that we visited about yesterday, and all three of them also knew the Lord. So you kind of look at that and you say: Well, this is a wicked time we are in right now, and we will be with you shortly. I say to Brandon's family: I pray you will feel God's peace and comfort and know that we appreciate you very much and the price Brandon paid for us. You will be together again soon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, earlier this week I placed on my Web site—